

It's a wrap!

"If we don't change direction soon, we'll end up where we're going."

~ Professor Irwin Corey

I finally got to shoot my two main scenes with a divorce attorney played by the star of the movie, **Elliot Haddaway**, in a real lawyer's office on Doheny and Wilshire, across the street from the sadly now-shuttered **Kate Mantilini** restaurant and a short stroll to the Writers Guild Theater, where **Melinda** and I watched **Rob Reiner's** romantic comedy **And So It Goes**, with **Michael Douglas** and **Diane Keaton**, right after I wrapped.

I play wealthy and powerful Louis Davenport who has cheated once too often on his young, delicious trophy wife, portrayed by the spectacular **Courtney Stoddard** (right) – and my spectacular *real* wife, **Melinda Peterson**, plays a judge in the film as well.

Congratulations to the crew and all the wonderful actors and our dazzling director, **Charis Orchard**, for making my days on the project both fun and fulfilling.

And let's help our friends complete another wonderful project about bullying in which Mel and I appeared together. [READ MORE](#)

Obits in Orbit

As the Planet continues to revolve, I will "turn" 74 on July 28. This issue is usually a celebration of fellow Leos, like my wife. Yet the longer I live, the more I see admired, inspirational artists and dear friends and colleagues shuffle off their mortal coil. And when they're called into the wings early in their time upon the stage, it's even more heartbreaking.

So, scattered throughout the normal mix of jokes, politics, polemics and quotes, I'll be acknowledging the untimely transitions of folks who touched my life and to whom I will be grateful as long as I draw breath. May their shining souls receive standing ovations in The Great Beyond.

"God has no religion."
~ Mahatma Ghandi



The despised head of Columbia Pictures, **Harry Cohn**, drew a huge crowd at his funeral, prompting **Red Skelton** to quip: "It just goes to show you, if you give the people what they want, they'll come out."

Garner's Gone

I knew Jim Garner socially but never worked with him except for adding background voices to some of his films; but my friend **Michael C. Gwynne** did, and he offers these insights into the character of the man, whom I also admired:

I worked with Jim some years ago on a picture called *Sunset*. He was a gent and a fun guy to be around but when it got time to go to work he was the ultimate pro. He was what we call a generous actor in that he gave you something behind the lines and that motivated you to give something back

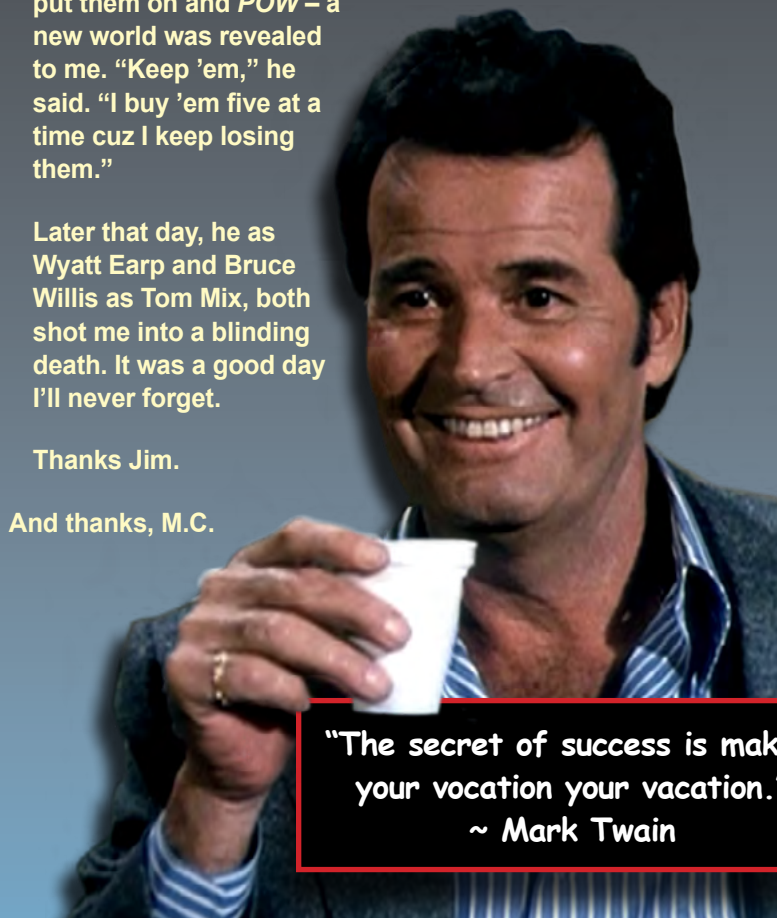
I had a scene where I had to kick him while he was lying down after knocking him out. He said, "Now, I want you to know I've had every bone in my body broken at one time or another. so watch my ribs when you deliver that kick." I said there was nothing worse-looking on camera than a pulled and phony kick but I had an idea that if we placed one of the sand bags used to hold the tall Klieg lights secure I could probably deliver a kick there. He liked the idea. So did Blake Edwards, the director, and it worked well, I thought.

He is also the man responsible for me wearing reading glasses. I was sitting on the set waiting for my scene with him and was holding my script at arm's length. He came and sat beside me and said, "Son, your arm's never gonna be long enough." I asked what he meant by that and he handed me a pair of red-framed plastic eyeglasses... I put them on and *POW* – a new world was revealed to me. "Keep 'em," he said. "I buy 'em five at a time cuz I keep losing them."

Later that day, he as Wyatt Earp and Bruce Willis as Tom Mix, both shot me into a blinding death. It was a good day I'll never forget.

Thanks Jim.

And thanks, M.C.



"The secret of success is making your vocation your vacation."
~ Mark Twain

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE POLITICAL

A **POLL** by Quinnipiac University revealed that 33 percent of voters think **Barack Obama** is "the worst president since World War II," while **G. W. Bush** came in second with 28 percent, Dick Nixon placed third with 13 percent, and Jimmy Carter got 8 percent.

"But before folks get too excited," notes MNBC Producer **STEVE BENEN**, "it's worth taking a closer look at the results. Democratic voters tended to distribute their votes broadly, with **Clinton, Kennedy, and Obama** each reaching double digits, while 66 percent of Republicans backed **Reagan** ... a simple dynamic: Democrats split their vote and Republicans didn't.

In other words, what this poll tells us is that Republicans really love Reagan and really hate Obama."

"For the last 15 years," he continues, "Pollsters have been asking some **VARIANT OF THIS QUESTION** and the incumbent always finishes as the 'worst president.' In 1998, for example, Clinton and Reagan finished at a close tie for second place, behind (you guessed it) Richard Nixon."

"I'm not sure which is more irresponsible," he concludes, "Quinnipiac, for putting such a pointless survey in the field, or media professionals who are pretending the results are important."

"The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom." ~ Isaac Asimov

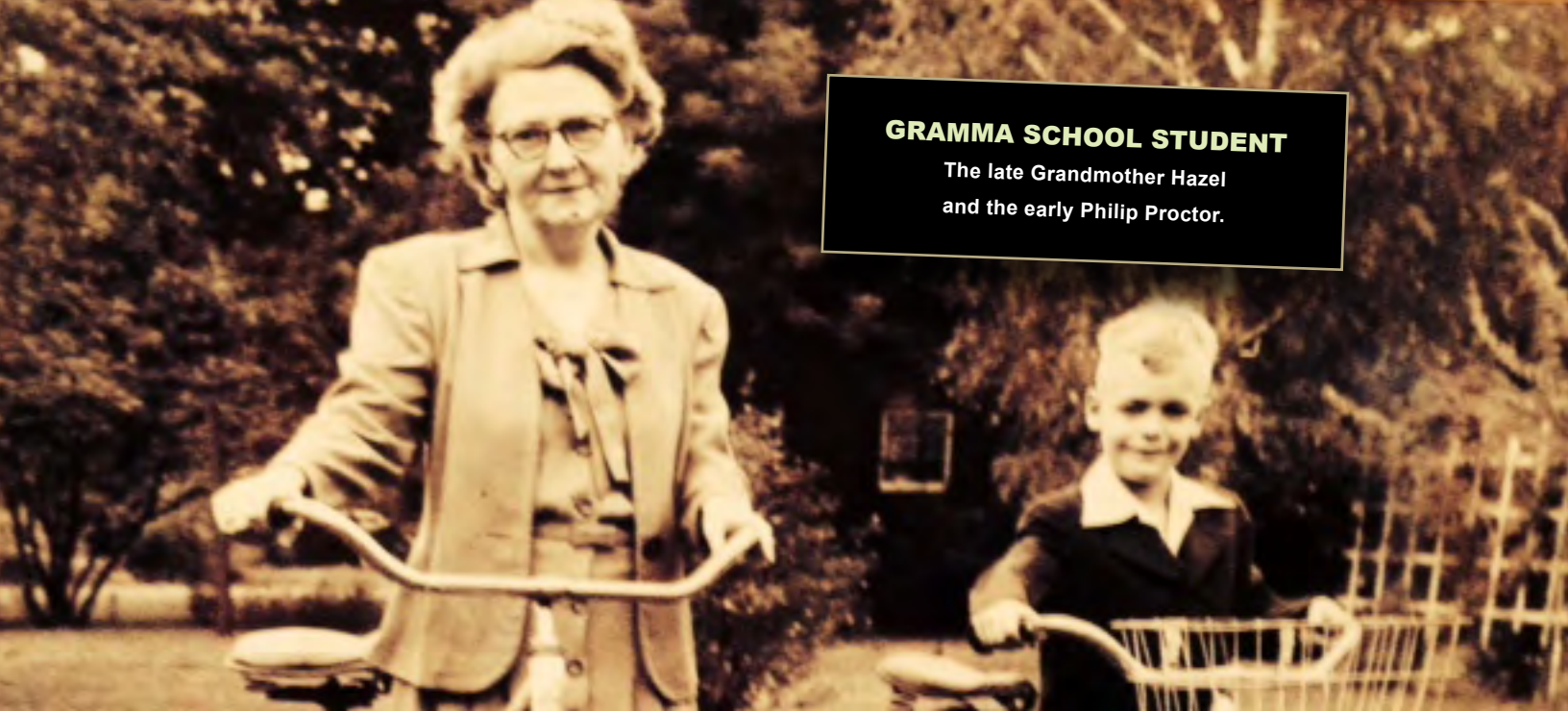
WE GROW TOO SOON OLD AND TOO LATE SCHMART

So said my dear Amish grandmother, **Hazel Yoder**, who passed away of heart failure in Goshen, Indiana many decades ago. Her birthday is coming up, and that always causes me to reminisce:

The long walks we used to take to the supermarket in town, the 5 cents she gave me for meaningless jobs like pulling weeds from our garden or cleaning off the driveway. Her soothing hands when I would get hurt. But the thing I remember most was her sage advice.

■ CONTINUED

THROUGHOUT
THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING
DARK RED TYPE
OPENS A RELATED
INTERNET LINK.



GRAMMA SCHOOL STUDENT
The late Grandmother Hazel
and the early Philip Proctor.

Once when I was about 13, we were sitting in the backyard enjoying a home-baked cookie and a soda pop. She told me that one day I would find a wonderful woman and start my own family. "Always remember this, she said. "Be sure you marry a woman with small hands."

"How come, Grandma?"

She smiled and said gently, "Makes your dick look bigger."

She was special!

*A Griffith Park tree dedicated to pop star George Harrison, an avid gardener during his last days in LA, has been destroyed by - beetles.
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

MAN/WO/MAN SAME THING

Everything you know is wrong! **Lauren Scott**, 50, a civil rights activist and Air Force veteran who served during Operation Desert Storm, was born a man but is now a woman and running for the Assembly in Reno's District 30 as Nevada's GOP candidate.



LAUREN SCOTT

"It's like an oxymoron," she said. "But there are a lot of people who are like myself and want a job, want to pay their bills and want to see business grow, and they also happen to be gay."

She is open about being transgender and says it's time to move away from "the good ol' boy" politics and the "same old same

old" and wants to encourage fellow Republicans to vote more moderately.

"I think there are a lot of the far-right-wing Republicans that are against some of the pro-choice issues, and even though I'm certainly a pro-choice candidate, I think it will play well with women and especially Republican women," Scott said.

"Clearly I'm not going to get all the Republicans out there to vote for me, but I would hope... they would want to put an 'R' in that column in 2015."

One question: can transgenders vote twice?

"Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect." ~ Benny Hill

POST/POSTCARD

"Hi Phil I'm Julian, a few days ago I requested an autograph, I waited for it on the mail nothing came few days later I got sick at work lots of pain, so I went ER, MRI done it was my appendix so I had to get operated, was in hospital for 3 long days, docs say I can go home now!

"So when I got home I ask my wife any mail came for me while I was at the hospital? She says yes, she hands me 2 junkmail and a post card. It finally came pic of you and rugrats so kool -- then I notice you wrote 'Julian be well' I thought crazy -- almost like if Phil knew I was sick. Just wanted to say thank you... God bless!"

"I decided to stop calling the bathroom the John and renamed it Jim. Now I can say I go to the Jim every morning." ~ Cyberjoke

All Hail Hollis

Our close friend for many years, classical K-Mozart radio veteran **Gary Hollis** died of pancreatic cancer early morning June 29, at his home in the presence of his dear wife, Kelly, and their son, Andrew Michael.

“When Gary was hired as a part-time announcer, 25 years ago,” says station owner **Saul Levine**, “I had no idea that we had engaged one of the most creative and dynamic air persons in our long history in radio. Gary was always upbeat, cheerful, and happy to be on the air presenting the music he loved.”

Hollis was born in Milwaukee on August 12, 1940 and moved to New York City at age 18 to pursue an acting career. He did numerous TV commercials, had roles in films such as *The Producers* and *Kindergarten Cop*, guest starred in television shows such as “Hill Street Blues,” “Colombo,” “Three’s Company” and “Murder She Wrote,” and appeared on Broadway in *Raisin* and was active in local Los Angeles theater after moving here in 1978.

While living in New York, he traveled the world as an entertainer on Cruise ships, worked as an usher at Carnegie Hall, and eventually became the Backstage Manager at Philharmonic Hall, where one of his most cherished memories was of escorting Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis backstage to meet Leonard Bernstein on the opening night of the Hall in 1962.

We were honored to know this sweet, spiritual man for many happy years, and when he interviewed me about my role in *A Time for Singing* as part of his Saturday morning Broadway Shows broadcast, I got to see the great man totally in control and at ease behind his microphone.

A wonderful, laugh-filled Memorial Service was held on Saturday, July 12, and donations can be made in his honor to WeSpark Cancer Support Center. **MORE ON WESPARK – L.A. TIMES OBIT.**



“The word happiness exists in every language; it is plausible the thing itself exists.”

~ Jorge Luis Borges

TALKY, TALKY TALK AND POLITALK

Hillary on the stump: “My accomplishments as Secretary of State? Well, I’m glad you asked. My proudest accomplishment in which I take the most pride, mostly because of the opposition it faced early on, you know...the remnants of prior situations and mindsets that were too narrowly focused in a manner whereby they may have overlooked the bigger picture and we didn’t do that and I’m proud of that – very proud.

“I would say that’s a major accomplishment.”

“I am still learning.” ~ **Michaelangelo**, aged 87

DON’T BLOW IT

An attractive young woman on a flight from Ireland asked the Priest beside her, “Father, may I ask a favor?”

“Of course, my child,” he responded. “What may I do for you?”

“Well, I bought my mother an expensive hair dryer for her birthday. It’s unopened but well over the Customs limits and I’m afraid they’ll confiscate it. Is there any way you could carry it through customs for me? Hide it under your robes perhaps?”

“I would love to help you, dear, but I must warn you, I will not lie.”

“With your honest face, Father, surely no one will question you.” So, when they got to Customs, she let the priest go first. The official asked, “Father, do you have anything to declare?” He answered, “From the top of my head down to my waist I have nothing to declare.” The official found this answer strange, so he asked, “And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor, then?”

“Well, sir,” he answered, “I have a marvelous instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is, to date, unused.”

And he entered the country without any further ado.

“I think Hell is something you carry around with you; not somewhere you go.” ~ **Neil Gaiman**

■ **CONTINUED**

Stritch was a Stitch and a Bitch

Elaine Stritch had a long career, and many admired her for it; but her success was not without controversy, none of which I'm going to reveal here. We met her in New York City after a taping of her HBO special, *At Liberty*, co-authored by my high school classmate, **John Lahr**, and she was charming.

She had an extraordinary career trodding the boards, and everyone should watch her one-woman show and her documentary *Shoot Me* – which I'm sure many would've been happy to do, but who cares? She survived and thrived.

Stritch was one of a kind, and a consummate entertainer until the final curtain. As her friend **Mia Farrow** observed, "I suspect Elaine Stritch won't know how to rest in peace."

[READ THE TIMES OBIT](#)



"You can live to be 100 if you give up all the things that make you want to live to be 100."
~ Woody Allen

"He who lives without folly is not as wise as he thinks."
~ Francois de La Rochefoucauld

CORPORATIONS ARE PEOPLE, MY FRIEND

Late one afternoon the Chairman of a large financial institution called the company executives into his conference room, until only the newest, most junior executive was left sitting nervously outside, awaiting his turn. Finally, he was summoned.

He entered the conference room to find the Chairman and the other eight directors seated silently around the table. Solemnly, the Chairman turned to the young man and asked: "Have you ever slept with Miss Fontenot, my secretary?"

"Why no, certainly not!" exclaimed the junior executive.

"Are you absolutely sure?" persisted the Chairman.

"Absolutely. I've never, ever laid a finger on her!"

"You'd swear to that on a stack of Bibles?"

"Yes, I swear I've never had a sexual relationship with your secretary."

"Good, he concluded. "Then, you fire her!"

"Sex on television can't hurt you unless you fall off."
~Author Unknown

THIS KILLS ME

Scott Esk, a Republican Tea Party candidate in Oklahoma, got into a debate on Facebook last summer in which he advocated killing homosexuals. "I think we would be totally in the right to do it," Esk wrote in comments uncovered by Oklahoma journalist **Rob Morris**.

"That goes against some parts of libertarianism, I realize, and I'm largely libertarian, but ignoring as a nation things that are worthy of death is very remiss." When pressed Esk added: "I never said I would author legislation to put homosexuals to death, but I didn't have a problem with it."

Esk was running for the state's House of Representatives and got 5 percent of the vote. [READ MORE](#)

"Capitalism is the extraordinary belief that the nastiest of men for the nastiest of motives will somehow work for the benefit of all." ~ **John Maynard Keynes**



SCOTT ESK

■ CONTINUED

SURPRIZE!

Imagine that you had won the following prize in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your personal account.

But this prize has rules: Everything that you don't spend each day will be taken away from you. You must spend it all, and the bank can end the game at any time by closing the account.

What would you do? You would probably buy everything you wanted, right? Not only for yourself but for all the

people you care about; even for people you didn't know, because how could you spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every penny because then you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

Actually, *this game is real!* And each of us is already a winner of this prize but we just can't see it. Why?

The *prize* is "Time!" Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift from life, and when we go to sleep at night, what we haven't used up that day is forever lost, and yesterday is forever gone. Each morning the account

■ CONTINUED

Heaven Bound

We were shocked to hear of the untimely passing of our friend and colleague, the immensely talented and beautiful **Vanna Bonta**, best known for her Quantum Science Fiction novel, *Flight*. She was an actress, singer and composer, and a poet whose works in Italian earned her national honors in Italia.

Her husband, **Allen Newcomb**, is a renowned rocket scientist, and with him, Vanna invented several pieces of hardware as well as the "2Suit," allowing couples to "link up" in weightlessness. **READ MORE**

And thanks to Allen, her earthly remains will find a final resting place in the infinite vastness of the universe she embodied and embraced. I am now proud to share with you her final message:

"My avatar is no longer in this dimension. At this point in time, in this system, it was an inevitable exit, one that billions have made before me, millions are making right now – people you know have made.

"I thought of telling you when I was diagnosed, but decided it would be redundant...what would I say? I'm going to die one day? I did not want to be viewed as or through my avatar, let alone its dysfunction.

"I love you and lived for you, as well



as my own experience, in a way that I feel could reach beyond the days and years we know as life, a time stream of experience that we harness and parse for action and inner revelations – that it's toward some metamorphosis is logical.

"When I learned my avatar was dying, I thought of you and what I hadn't given yet. (A sentiment I found echoed, partially, in the John Keats poem, about ceasing to exist.) I rallied, and my form responded in ways medics called an anomaly, a miracle. I didn't do too much differently, and I have so much more to give... I have no

regrets because I tried to face every experience with a spirit of self-improvement and evolution.

"I prepared in my way and have thought of death since I was a child. I can write about what it was like all the way to the door, but once I leave, I have no means to convey with words because I am not animating matter. My Avatar is gone, but I – the self-aware who may lose brain memory but never character, who is aware and that I 'have' and am using an avatar, that it is mine (was mine) – did not cease. There is no 'gone' outside of Space.

"I grew fond of it, and the 'me' I created, and all the familiar things we know. I somehow orchestrated it, in tandem with the material word. And my work feels unfinished – but I'll create more, in continuums of choosing. And some of us will continue a connection, beyond Matter, or as forms, even meeting in continuums and simultaneous dimensions.

"Create wonderful things while you're here. On the stage of eternity, there's more truth in comedy than tragedy. Love may be the only thing that is real. The qubit truth about this good-bye is: it's also a hello.

"I love you and know the forever you.

"Once known as Vanna Bonta
June 23, 2014"

is refilled, but your account can be dissolved at any time *without warning!*...So, what will you do with your 86,400 seconds, which are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars?

Think about it -- Be happy, love deeply and enjoy every second, because time races by much quicker than you think. Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day. Start "spending!"

The author of this piece is unknown, but a note like this was apparently found in Alabama football coach **Paul "Bear" Bryant's** billfold after his death in 1982.

"Your Power Rests Where Your Consciousness Flows"
~ **Stuart Wilde**

Goodrow, Bad News

As this orbit goes to press, news has just arrived that **Garry Goodrow**, another longtime friend and member of the trailblazing troupe, **The Committee in San Francisco**, who emceed many benefits featuring artists like **Allen Ginsberg** and the **Grateful Dead**, and was also known for a guest role in **WKRP in Cincinnati** with comic collaborator, **Howard Hesseman** has died at his home back East. We're grateful for the giggles, Garry.



THE CURSED OEDIPUS

... lives on and tells his tragic tale Thursday through Sunday until August 10 at the famed **Antaeus Theatre Company** on Lankershim in HoHo. I'm proud to be a member of the chorus and since my double, **Ned Schmidtke**, is off to Denmark with his family, you can see me in all of the final performances. So get your tickets now, and come see, according to **Myron Meisel** in the *Hollywood Reporter*, "a spellbinding and vigorously audacious show with virtuoso direction and visual bravura."

"Nearly all its component parts bespeak workmanlike, intelligent craft," the review continues, "Yet the cumulative impact transcends its triumphal professionalism to reach profoundly into our anxieties and sympathies in ways immediate and never obscure. Even the smallest roles of the individual chorus members are indelibly vivid, and the dozen or so major characters are superbly limned."

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER REVIEW

"I wish the stage were as narrow as a tight rope so that no incompetent would dare walk on it." - **Goethe**

CONTRIBUTIONS

Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Victor Kopcewich, Magic Mike Berger, Keith Hebble, George Riddle, Robert Riddle, Bill McIntyre, Nick Oliva, Victor Kopcewich, Nick Oliva, Terrell Tilford, Victoria Bell, Betsey Brubaker-Strum, and congratulations to our friend **Weird Al Yankovic** for the great success of his new album **MANDATORY FUN**.

"College is a refuge from hasty judgment."
~ **Robert Frost**

**CELEBRATE
LESBOS
ODDKA
BUBBLES
GET DOWN, JR
GANGNAMMY
TIME
SUCKS
BANANAS
MICK
DIVE
SIRPRIZE
DRAMAMINE
FLY
WHY WOMEN
BIG BANG
THAI ONE ON
ITALIANO
CLIMB
MANDATORY HELL**

"All War is a symptom of man's failure as a thinking animal." ~ John Steinbeck

BEARWHIZ BEER <http://www.eagletshirts.com>

FUNNY TIMES: <http://www.funnytimes.com>

FST: <http://www.FiresignTheatre.com>

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